MANITOBA

FIREARM INCIDENTS

REPORT

Hunting and Non-Hunting
2002

Hunter and Firearm
Safety Program

Manitoba
Conservation
and
Manitoba
Wildlife Federation

103-04495/

ACKNOWLEGEMENTS

Manitoba Conservation acknowledges the assistance provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces who provided information for this Firearm Incidents Report. It is through these organizations that detailed information on each firearm incident was obtained.

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Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces requiring additional incident report forms please write to the Hunter and Firearm Safety Program, 200 Saulteaux Crescent, Winnipeg Manitoba R3J 3W3 or phone 945-6644. Questions regarding the administration and delivery of the Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety Program should be directed to:

The Manitoba Wildlife Federation
70 Stevenson Road
Winnipeg MB R3H 0W7
633- Hunt (4868) or
1-877-633-Hunt

SUMMARY

During 2002 there were 2 firearm related incidents. In 2000 there were 3 and in 2001 there were 6. None of the incidents in 2002 were self-inflicted. There was 1 hunting related fatality. None of the 2002 incidents involved a shooter under 18 years of age, (however 1 of the shooters age is unknown) compared to one in 2001 and 1 in 2000.

Both incidents were related to hunting. One occurred during a licenced hunting season, resulting in 1 fatality.

Of the 2 reported incidents, 1 occurred at a distance of 10-50 yards, 1 occurred at 50-100 yards. One of the 2 incidents involved a graduate of a Hunter Safety Program.

The Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety course was completed by 2,191 students in 2002, while 1,976 completed the course in 2001. 138,252 students have now graduated from the program since it began in 1964. Of the total 163 have later become involved in a firearm incident which represents .0012%. In 2002, 7 new instructors were certified, bringing the total number of volunteers to approximately 247 active instructors.

In 1998 Manitoba Conservation entered into an agreement with the Manitoba Wildlife Federation (MWF). The agreement transfers the administration and delivery of the Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety Training Program to the MWF.

CAUSE OF INCIDENTS

	2001	2002
Victim out of sight of shooter	0	1
Victim moved into line of fire	0	0
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	0	0
Victim mistaken for game	3	1*
Shooter stumbled and fell	0	0
Using firearm as a club	0	0
Trigger caught on bush or other object	0	0
Loaded firearm in vehicle	1	0
Firearm fell from insecure rest	0	0
Horseplay" and/or "didn't know it was loaded"	1	0
Crossing fence or other obstacle with loaded firearm	0	0
Loading	0	0
Unloading	0	0
Defective firearm	0	0
Cleaning firearm	0	0
Loaded firearm in the home	0	0
Accidental discharge	1	0
Richochet	0	0
Other	0	0

* Indicates fatal incident

Total	**6**	**2**

Average firearm incidents per year in 5 year increments since Hunter Safety Program commenced.

1964-1968	44.2
1969-1973	56.0
1974-1978	53.6
1979-1983	42.8
1984-1988	26.4
1989-1993	20.4
1994-1998	9.0
1999	15.0
2000	3.0
2001	6.0
2002	2.0

SYNPOSIS OF 2001 AND 2002 FIREARM INCIDENTS

		2001	2002
A.	**Total Number of Incidents**	**6**	**2**
	Fatal	3	1
	Non-fatal	3	1
B.	**1) Hunting Legally During Regular Season**	**2**	**1**
	Fatal	1	1
	Non-fatal	1	0
	2) Treaty Indian Hunting	**4**	**1**
	Fatal	2	0
	Non-fatal	2	1
	3) Hunting Small Animals, Birds, or Illegal Hunting	**0**	**0**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	0
	4) Non-hunting Incidents	**0**	**0**
	Fatal in the home	0	0
	Fatal in a vehicle	0	0
	Fatal outside home	0	0
	Non-fatal in the home	0	0
	Non-fatal in a vehicle	0	0
	Non-fatal outside the home	0	0
C.	**Shooter Unknown**	**0**	**1**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	1
D.	**Incidents Involving Shooter under 18 years of age**	**1**	**0**
	All Types of Hunting	0	0
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	1	0
	Non-hunting	0	0
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	0

TYPE OF FIREARM INVOLVED

		2001	2002
A.	**.22 calibre Rim Fire Rifle**	**1**	**0**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	1	0
B.	**Centre Fire Hi Power Rifle**	**3**	**1**
	Fatal	3	1
	Non-fatal	0	0
C.	**Shotgun**	**2**	**1**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	2	1
D.	**Hand Gun**	**0**	**0**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	0
E.	**Pellet Gun**	**0**	**0**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	0
F.	**Unknown/Other Muzzle Loader**	**0**	**0**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	0
Total		**6**	**2**

DISTANCE OF VICTIM FROM SHOOTER

	2001	2002
0 to 10 yards	3	0
10 to 50 yards	0	1
50 to 100 yards	1	1
over 100 yards	1	0
Distance Unknown	1	0

OCCURENCES

Time of Day	2001	2002
Midnight – 3:00 a.m.	1(1)*	0
3:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m.	0	0
6:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	1	0
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	0	1
12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.	0	0
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	2(2)*	0
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	2	1(1)*
9:00 p.m. – 12:00 midnight	0	0
Unknown	0	0
By Day		
Sunday	2	0
Monday	0	0
Tuesday	2(2)*	0
Wednesday	0	0
Thursday	2(2)*	1
Friday	0	0
Saturday	0	1(1)*
By Month		
January	0	0
February	0	0
March	0	0
April	0	0
May	0	1
June	0	0
July	0	0
August	0	0
September	1(1)*	1(1)*
October	2	0
November	2(1)*	0
December	1(1)*	0

* Indicates one or more fatal

COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF HUNTING LICENCES SOLD

	GAME BIRDS	BIG GAME	TOTAL
1970	45,822	47,156	92,978
1975	48,687	11,606*	60,293
1980	58,091	60,505	118,596
1985	35,342	52,541	87,883
1990	34,571	60,006	94,577
1995	24,511	67,883	92,394
2000	19,584	61,318	80,902
2001	18,266	64,098	82,364
2002	17,841	63,703	81,544

* Indicates closed deer season

COMPARISON OF TOTAL FIREARM INCIDENTS
LICENSED HUNTING INCIDENTS WITH TOTAL HUNTING LICENCES ISSUED

YEAR	TOTAL LICENSES ISSUED	TOTAL FIREARM INCIDENTS	LICENCED HUNTING INCIDENTS
1985	87,883	26	7
1990	94,577	22	6
1995	92,394	15	1
2000	80,902	3	1
2001.	82,364	6	1
2002	81,544	2	1

SUMMARY OF 2002 INCIDENTS

Proper firearm handling is the most important element of hunter safety. Careless handling of firearms can cause death or injury to hunters or their companions before they see their target or even reach the bush. Ten basic rules must be followed whenever a firearm is handled or used. The first four rules apply whether you are in a home or building (such as a gun store), in a vehicle, at a shooting range or while hunting. The ten basic rules are:

GENERAL RULES OF FIREARM SAFETY

1. **ALWAYS POINT THE MUZZLE OF A FIREARM IN THE SAFEST DIRECTION.**
2. **OPEN THE ACTION OF A FIREARM AS SOON AS YOU PICK IT UP FOR ANY REASON.**
3. **LOOK INTO THE CHAMBER AND MAGAZINE TO ENSURE THE FIREARM IS UNLOADED AFTER OPENING THE ACTION.**
4. **DO NOT PUT YOUR FINGER IN THE TRIGGER GUARD UNTIL READY TO FIRE.**
5. **BE CERTAIN THE BARREL IS FREE FROM OBSTRUCTION . THIS SHOULD BE DONE BEFORE LOADING AND PERIODICALLY DURING MOVEMENT IN THE FIELD.**
6. **CHECK FOR THE CORRECT AMMUNITION FOR THE FIREARM YOU ARE USING.**
7. **USE THE SAFETY BUT DON'T RELY ON IT.**
8. **NEVER CLIMB A TREE OR FENCE OR JUMP A DITCH WITH A LOADED FIREARM.**
9. **BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND BEYOND BEFORE YOU PULL THE TRIGGER.**
10. **TREAT EVERY FIREARM AS THOUGH IT WERE LOADED.**

SUMMARY OF 2002 INCIDENTS

DATE AND TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A GRADUATE OF HUNTER SAFETY	CIRCUMSTANCES
May 9 9:30 am	S - Unknown V - 21	No	Shotgun	50 - 100 yds	Geese	No	Victim had stopped his snowmobile behind a clump of bush. Unknown shooter shot at a flock of geese as they lifted off. Victim struck in right index finger.
September 21 8: 20 pm	S - 55 V - 30	Yes	300 Win. Mag.	10 -50 yds	Moose	Yes	Two individuals hunting moose, shot and wounded a bear. While attempting to locate bear shooter mistook victim for bear. Fatal gunshot wound to the chest.

S – Shooter
V - Victim